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Factor Study
Notes on condition of seedbed enclosures - fall, 1935.

When the S.I. crew left Idaho City for the season on Nov. 24, 1935, the Flat enclosure was entirely covered with snow, 4 to 6 inches deep except where litter had only recently been applied. The snow had been roughly raked back on the beds after litter application, so water effect should be the same in two halves of enclosure. Most of both enclosures are intermittently shaded throughout the day when the sun is as low as at this season, by both the nearby trees (which have not yet been cut) and the trees on the hill to the south. Soil is wet to depth of 4 to 8 inches, as shown by six sampling points a few days ago. It is frozen to a depth of about 1". The last readings of soil temperature at 6" depth, Nov. 19, were about 34° F. in both enclosures; 37° beneath and nath of willow bush north of enclosure.

The South enclosure was entirely bare except for a bit of snow on extreme northwestern bed in west half (shaded by trees). Snow has come and gone on it several times, and the ground has frozen and thawed several times to depth of 1 to 2 inches; is thawed at mid-day today. Very moist, with moisture extending to depth of 4 to 8 inches. Soil hard beneath zone of moisture penetration. Sufficial frost heaving of surface layer of soil on bare beds, sufficient to move some seeds on surface-sown beds.

The North enclosure is covered with the last snow, about 2", but much of the snow that was raked off for planting and litter application is piled up between the beds to a depth of 12" or so; more in west than in east half, as most of snow was shovelled out of latter. On the slope where snow undisturbed, depth is from 4 to 10 inches, according to degree of protection; in hollow and slope with southeasterly exposure below enclosure the snow has melted entirely, possibly aided in spots by slash burning. In beds the soil is wet to depth of only 2 to 4 inches, deeper near snow accumulations. Frozen to depth of 1", or deeper in walks where snow has melted and been trampled. Exposed beds, as small beds which were planted late, have been frozen and partially or entirely thawed several times, but not as much as on south. Some beds, protected by snow, or with little moisture in them, have frozen only very superficially. West half (non-rodent proof) get a little more sun than east half due to topography; but at very low angle and for only few hours on either. Tree shade fairly uniform and inappreciable.

A portion of west half of south enclosure is still getting pretty heavy shade after about 2 p.m.; may have to cut additional trees next year.

E.L.M.